

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6315 of July 12, 1991

Captive Nations Week, 1991

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Each July 4, we Americans celebrate our Nation's Independence with a profound sense of gratitude for the blessings of liberty. Yet, as we rejoice in our freedom, we also remember our solemn obligation to speak out in behalf of those peoples who suffer under tyranny and oppression. Thus, this month we also observe Captive Nations Week.

Established at a time when Marxist-Leninist regimes had enslaved many nations of the world and overshadowed others with the very real threat of expansionism, our annual observance of Captive Nations Week has underscored our determination to defend the ideals of national sovereignty and individual liberty. It has also underscored our belief in the inevitable triumph of freedom and democratic ideals. Now, after more than three decades, we can see that our faith has been well founded; our vigilance and resolve have borne fruit.

The world has entered a promising new era. Communism has failed throughout Eastern Europe. The Soviet Union has taken important steps toward democracy and openness. More and more regimes that once ruled by terror and force have fallen, swept away by courageous peoples who are eager to take their rightful place in the community of free nations—a community that is marked by respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Tragically, however, despite these welcome changes, there remain captive peoples whose sufferings cannot be overlooked. The United States is determined to keep faith with all oppressed peoples and to assist peaceful efforts to promote democracy and freedom. Indeed, until freedom and independence have been achieved for every captive nation, we shall continue to call on all governments and states to uphold both the letter and the spirit of international human rights agreements, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the more recent Charter of Paris.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as "Captive Nations Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning July 14, 1991, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to

observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and I urge them to reaffirm their commitment to upholding the God-given right of all peoples to liberty, justice, and self-determination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6316 of July 23, 1991

Korean War Veterans Remembrance Week, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In 1950, while Americans were still enjoying a sense of pride and relief following the Allied victory in World War II, our Nation suddenly became engaged in another great struggle for freedom. On June 25 of that year, communist forces of the North launched a ruthless attack against the free Republic of Korea. The United Nations swiftly condemned the invasion and formed the UN Command to repel the aggressor. America's Armed Forces, many of whom had just served during World War II, joined with those of 17 other nations in the ensuing conflict. Forty years before the international effort to liberate Kuwait, these courageous individuals demonstrated the power of collective resolve in the face of lawless aggression.

Addressing the American troops serving in Korea, President Truman declared: "You will go down in history as the first army to fight under a flag of a world organization in the defense of human freedom Victory may be in your hands, but you are winning a greater thing than military victory, for you are vindicating the idea of freedom under international law." By the time a cease-fire was negotiated at Panmunjom on July 27, 1953, more than 54,000 American servicemen had died to defend the lives and liberty of others. Some 103,000 were wounded, and today 8,000 are still listed as missing in action. This week, we honor our Nation's Korean War veterans and remember in prayer those heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice at places such as Inchon, the Pusan Perimeter, and the Chosin Reservoir.

Veterans of the Korean War can take pride in their legacy. These heroes and their fallen comrades not only helped to restore the freedom of South Korea but also won a decisive victory for the ideals of liberty and self-determination. Today there is hope for peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula, and in just a few months the Republic of Korea will take its rightful place as a member of the United Nations. These promising developments are a monument to each of the brave and selfless Americans and other UN forces who fought in Korea four decades ago for the sake of peace and freedom.

In grateful recognition of our Nation's Korean War veterans, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 255, has designated the week beginning July 21, 1991, as "Korean War Veterans Remembrance Week" and